

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

September 8, 2006

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: Proposed Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Project and Lease to Sand Island
Off Highway Vehicle Association, Inc. for a Portion of Sand
Island State Park, Oahu, TMK: 1-5-041:006

SUMMARY: National recreation statistics indicate that use of personal thrill-craft (snowmobiles, jest skis, ATV's and off-highway motorcycles) is the fastest growing form of outdoor recreational activity. In Hawaii, there has been a steady increase in the use of OHV's (four wheel ATV's and off-road motorcycles) on both public and private land. Unlike many mainland States, the County Department of Motor Vehicles do not license or register OHV's, therefore numbers of users or potential growth is difficult to quantify. In addition to public safety issues, there are issues associated with trespass on private land and unauthorized use on land under DLNR jurisdiction. Frequent use on land not managed for this activity can result in severe erosion and related resource management issues. Use of OHV's near urban population centers creates a nuisance issue due to the associated sound of OHV's.

Due to these constraints, there are a few specific, and limited authorized opportunities for Hawaii OHV enthusiasts to conduct their activity on public land. DLNR, through the Division of Forestry and Wildlife - Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Program (NAH) receives federal Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Funds via the Federal Highways Administration. A percentage must be applied towards motorized recreation. In collaboration with the Division of State Parks and the non-profit organization: the Sand Island Off-Highway Vehicle Association (SIOHVA), NAH is interested in cost sharing and establishing a lease agreement for an OHV project on an unused, 30 acres portion of Sand Island State Park. Upon the BLNR's approval in concept of the project, SIOHVA will prepare both the Special Management Area (SMA) permit application and Environmental Assessment (EA) for submission by DOFAW to the County and OEQC, respectively. Upon approval of these permits, State Parks/NAH will return to the Board with a lease agreement for review and approval.

BACKGROUND: In the 1970's, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) recognized the need on Oahu for the development of an authorized area for motorcycles

due to increasing unauthorized motorcycle use on hiking trails. DOFAW facilitated the establishment of an OHV riding area with the non-profit organization Hawaii Motorsports on unencumbered State land in Kahuku. The areas are approximately 500 acres and contain over 30 miles of OHV trails. OHV use on this land is authorized through a Revocable Permit with the Land Division for the operations, management and use of the Kahuku Motocross Park (KMP) – subject to a Master Lease with the Military. As such, use of the very popular KMP is limited to only weekends and State and federal holidays.

Due to increasing interest from Big Island OHV enthusiast requesting an authorized area to ride, NAH collaborated with a Big Island OHV club in 2004 to establish an OHV riding area in the Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve. This is a planted forest that will be subject to future timber harvest. Using the existing grid line/harvest access routes created when the trees were planted, NAH and the OHV riders mapped out and then cleared the grid lines to establish the OHV trail. The trail is an irregular loop for ATV's and off-road motorcycles. While short compared to national mileage for OHV areas, it provides 22 miles of authorized OHV use on public land where none existed before. NAH and the OHV users also coordinated with the local pig hunters who use the area, in order to minimize potential conflict between the two user groups. This project was the subject of national recognition, and NAH Hawaii Trail Specialist, Irv Kawashima, received an award in June of 2006 from the Coalition of Recreational Trails in Washington D.C for the design of this OHV riding area. Future plans include the establishment of a camping area and comfort stations, and coordinating with the private company that will conduct the timber harvest via the grid line access routes.

There is increasing OHV use on Oahu, and isolated issues of public resource damage that require intervening enforcement and restrictions – such as at Kaena Point. There is also growing trespass issues on private land creating liability and public safety concerns. NAH was approached by a group of OHV riders in 2005, expressing an interest in an unused, 30 acres portion of Sand Island State Park. Due to its location adjacent land-use comprised of light industrial activity, and being directly under the flight path of Honolulu International Airport, NAH staff agreed that both environmentally and socially this area would be well suited for OHV use. Dialogue was initiated between NAH and State Parks, which resulted in the strategy to approach various community representatives and elected officials who represent the area to discuss the project and determine if there would be any associated community concerns. Thus far the response has been positive and supportive.

Timelines of Community Outreach and Contact with Honolulu City and County:

- October 2005:** National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council and NAH OHV workshops on the islands of Maui, Oahu and Hawaii. Dialogue between an emerging OHV club and NAH identified use of Sand Island State Park for OHV use.
- November 2005:** Oahu OHV riders created a working group
- December 2005:** Formal creation of the Sand Island Off-Highway Vehicle Association (SIOHVA) and the appointment of Board Members

- February 2006:** NAH Program Manager and SIOHVA representative presented the project to the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board. No formal vote was taken, but the members present unanimously supported the proposal.
- March 2006:** NAH Program Manager and SIOHVA members met with Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland who supported the concept.
- March 2006:** SIOHVA contacted and met with the Sand Island Businessman's Association who supported the project.
- April 2006:** SIOHVA completes the Sand Island OHV Park Proposal and Management Plan.
- May 2006:** Senator Chun-Oakland hosts a meeting to discuss future projects in the Sand Island Area. This meeting was attended by: Sandy Pfund (Aloha Tower Development Corporation), Representatives from Tesoro, and State Parks Administrator Dan Quinn and SIOHVA representatives. The proposed OHV use at Sand Island did not interfere with the other adjacent proposed and current uses.
- May 2006:** DLNR submits a letter to City and County Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) requesting an exemption from County zoning ordinance for OHV activity, citing OHV use as an ancillary park use of Sand Island State Park.
- June 2006:** Zoning exemption approved by the City and County of Honolulu.
- July 2006:** SIOHVA representatives meet with New Hope Church (NHC) Pastor and representatives to discuss parking plans and NHC Canoe Club parking issues. NHC supports the project.
- September 2006:** Draft Special Management Area (SMA)/Environmental Assessment (EA).
- November 2006:** Final SMA/EA.
- December 2006:** Consideration for Board of Land and Natural Resources Lease.

Proposed Project Description:

The subject land would remain under the jurisdiction of State Parks, and would be a new and ancillary use of a portion of Sand Island State Park. A two year lease would be issued to SIOHVA, providing them with the authority, in consultation and collaboration with State Parks and Na Ala Hele staff, to design, construct and manage a series of public trails and riding areas specifically designed for off-highway motorcycles, all terrain vehicles and four-wheel drive trucks. NAH would contribute federal RTP grant money that is allocated

for OHV use to cover a portion of the expenses associated with design and construction. The OHV organization will contribute the 20 percent match with in-kind services and donated equipment.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve in concept, the creation of the Sand Island OHV Park;
2. Approve in concept the issuance of a two-year lease between the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Sand Island Off Highway Vehicle Association to design, develop and manage a 30-acre portion of Sand Island State Park for public OHV use.
3. Authorize Department staff to work with SIOHVA to complete the necessary permits and public review process and draft terms and conditions of a lease for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



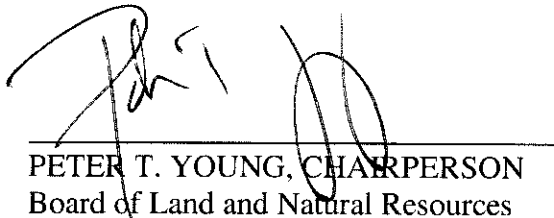
PAUL J. CONRY
Administrator

Requested by:

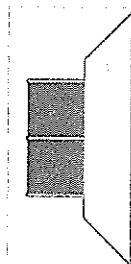


DAN QUINN, Administrator
State Parks

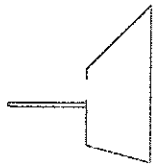
APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



PETER T. YOUNG, CHAIRPERSON
Board of Land and Natural Resources



A
C-101
FRONT VIEW
DIRT BERM
LOOKING DIAMONDHEAD



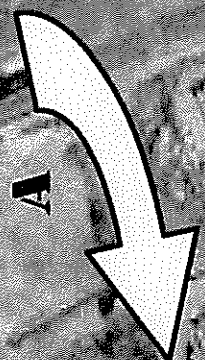
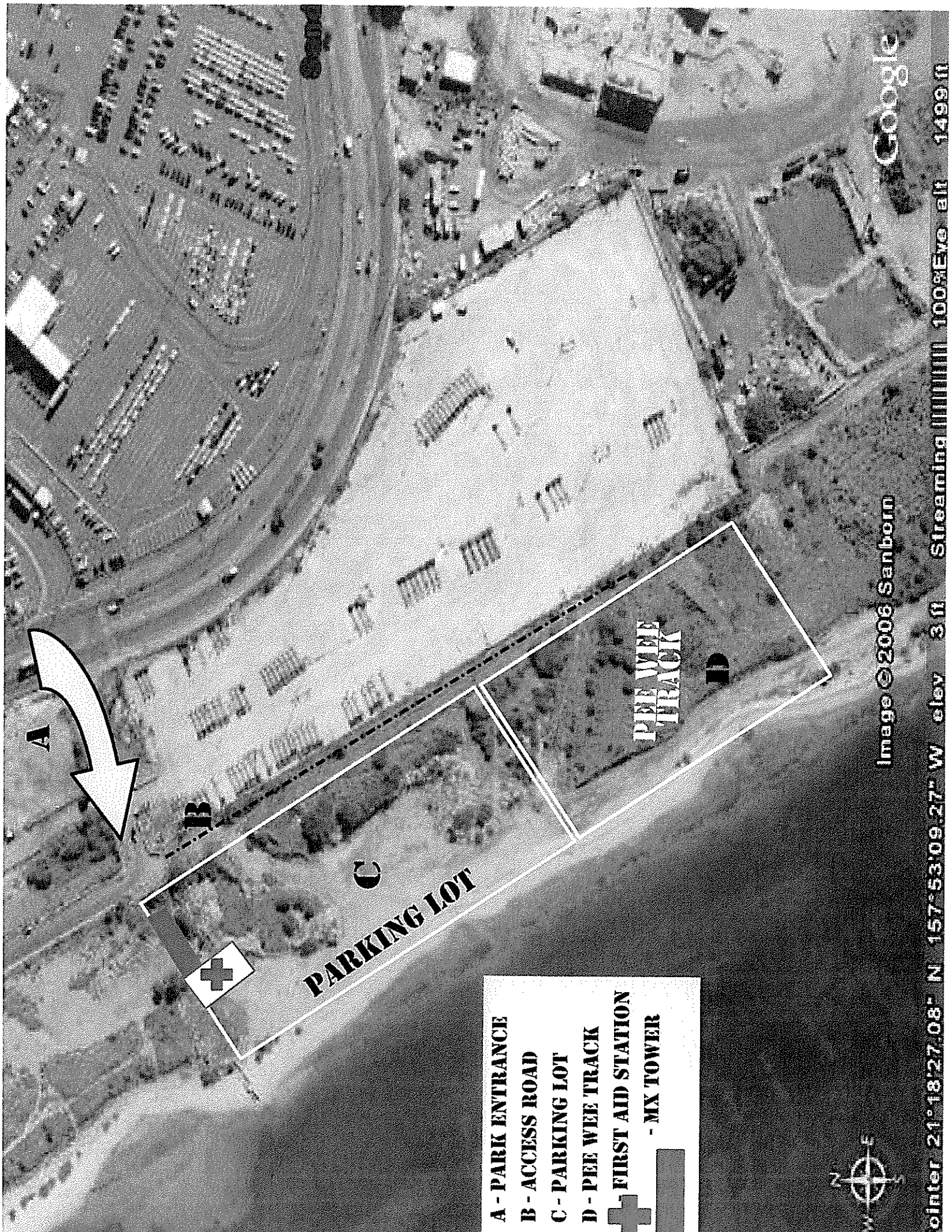
B
C-101
SIDE VIEW
DIRT BERM
LOOKING DIAMONDHEAD

MOTOCROSS TRACK

**BEACH
(SWIMMING AREA)**

Image © 2006 Sanborn





PARKING LOT

**PEE WEE
TRACK**

D

- A - PARK ENTRANCE**
- B - ACCESS ROAD**
- C - PARKING LOT**
- D - PEE WEE TRACK**
- + FIRST AID STATION**
- MX TOWER**



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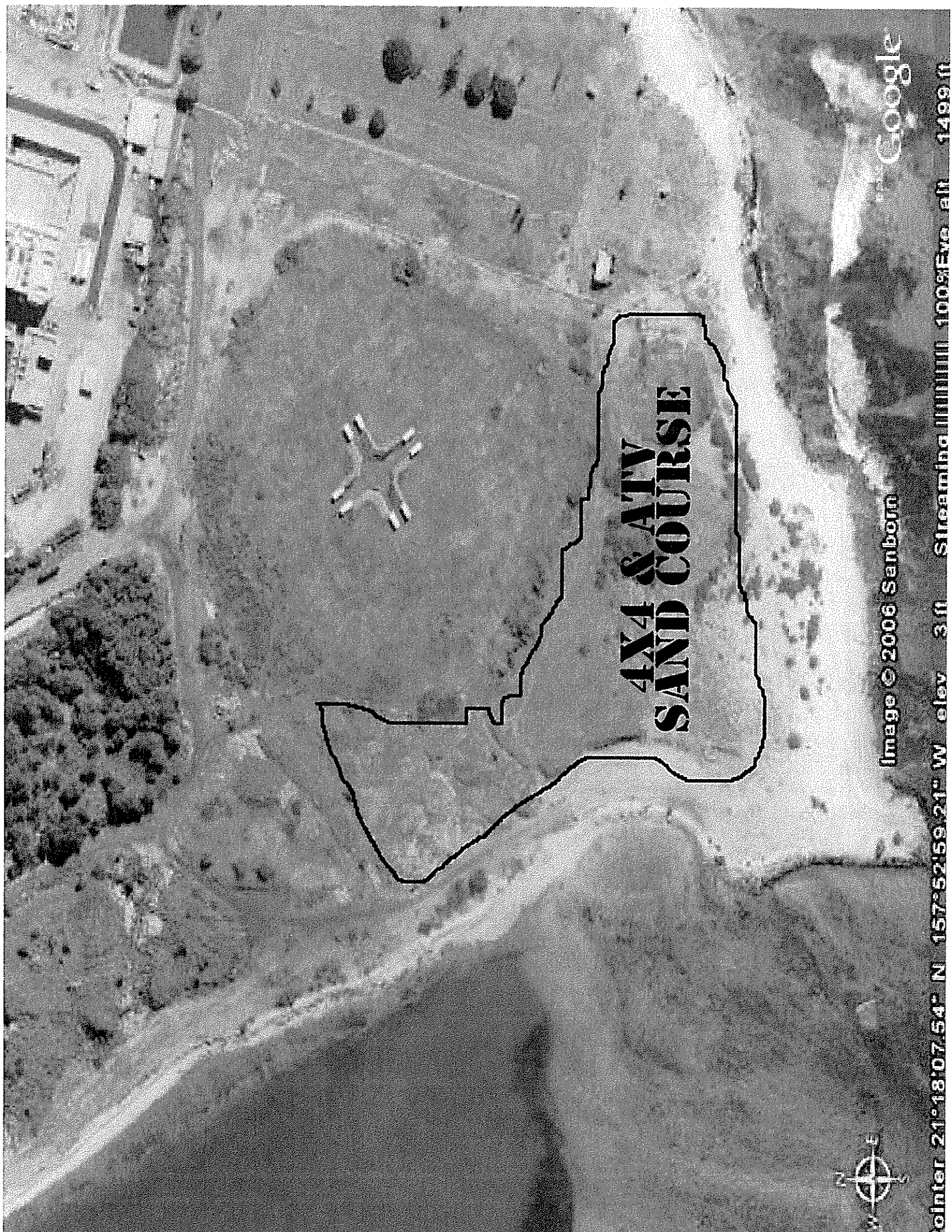
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Image © 2006 Sarbourn

point: 21°18'17.63" N 157°53'03.43" W elev: 3 ft Streaming 100% Eye alt: 1499 ft



4X4 & ATV SAND COURSE

Image © 2006 Sanborn

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Point 21°18'07.54" N 157°52'59.21" W elev 3 ft Stream 100% Elevation 1489 ft